



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Saturday 15 October 2011
The Royal Court Hotel Coventry**

Item 1 - The National Standard was paraded into the meeting by Mike Weller, the Union Flag by Debbie Lofts and accepted by Malcolm White National Vice Chairman.

Item 2 - The Homage was read by the National Vice Chairman Malcolm White who then said, "I should like to bring to your attention that on the 14th October 1939 HMS Royal Oak was hit and sunk while at anchor at Scapa Flow with the loss of 833 men. We remember also today those members of our Association who have departed since the last AGM:

Name		Branch	Name		Branch
Ronald	Booth	1st Lincolnshire	Robert	Wiseman	Postal North
Ted	Ryan	Cardiff	John	Taylor	Postal North
Roy	Ackling	Colchester	James	Lawrence	Postal North
William	Wood	Colchester	Robert	Flaherty	Postal North
Peter	Brand	Colchester	Patricia	Gurr	Postal North
John	Cleary	Colchester	Eric	Wilson BEM	Postal South
Roy	Russell	Colchester	David	Lewis	Postal South
Tony	Grainger	Doncaster	Frank	Bissington	Postal South
David	Dinsmore	Doncaster	Bernard	Smith	Postal South
Eric	Lazenby	Doncaster	Peter	Walton	Postal South
Albert	Richardson	Doncaster	Ian (Sam)	Myatt	Postal South
Ray	Scaife	Doncaster	Tony	Meates	Southern Area
Brian	Robson	Durham	Edwin	Broomfield	Southern Area
Leonard	Herrington	Colchester	Brian	King	Surrey
Alexander	Wisener	Leicester	Garth	Morris	Swindon
Andrew	Weir	N. Ireland	Lawrence	McIntosh	Tyneside
Frank	Rhodes	President	James	Donning	Tyneside
Anthony	Lemar	North Kent	Betty	Neil	Tyneside
Peter	LePevost	Nottingham	Gerald	McGuckin	Tyneside
Anthony	Granelli	Pontypridd	George	Foster	Tyneside
Leonard	Popplewell	Pontypridd	Geoffrey	Normanton	Tyneside
Ronald	Wheatman	Postal North	John	Perry	Tyneside
Peter	Weaver	Postal North	Robert	Gibbons	Tyneside

Item 3 - National Chairman: - "I am delighted to welcome you all to the 2011 AGM and I hope your reunion weekend is a roaring success. May I single out in my welcome a former National Chairman David Neil, from Tyneside Branch. I believe we may also have a two star member present, Air Vice Marshal Alan Johnson [who indicated]. We are delighted to have you join us in Coventry Sir. With us today also is a Colchester Branch member, Adrian Villanueva, who has come all the way from Singapore for this meeting."

Item 4 - Apologies - Secretary Ted Williams: "I have had an enormous number of apologies, too many to list on the minutes, but I have recorded them if anyone would like a copy." There were no apologies from within the meeting.

Item 5 - Minutes of Meeting of the AGM held at the Royal Court Hotel 2010: Chairman took pages one at a time and the Minutes were accepted as a true record.

5a Matters arising that are not on the agenda: There were no Matters arising.

Item 6 - National Chairman's Report: A copy of the National Chairman's Report to the 2011 AGM is attached to the distribution of these Minutes to Branches. It can also be found on the Association website at www.nmbva.co.uk and a précis will be included in the December Newsletter. Copies of the Report were also available to members at the Hotel Reception during the lunch break. The Report concludes with the National Chairman repeating his theme for the next year to '**Give the members what they want**'

Matters arising after the Chairman delivered his Report:

6a. The Chairman said that in relation to the wearing of the PJM, he could announce that on 10th October the House of Lords had proposed an amendment to the Armed Forces Bill passing through Parliament which said that the PJM should be permitted to be worn without Restriction.

[Afternote: Subsequently, and after the AGM, and further consideration by the Commons and the Lords, the Government has agreed to make a swift recommendation to Her Majesty to permit the wearing of the PJM and to do so by Remembrance Sunday of this year, 2011. For further information see our Association website for notifications from the National Chairman. Copies of the notifications have been despatched to Branches and details will be contained in the December Newsletter].

6b **Dennis Bowen North Yorkshire & Dales Branch**: "I should like to bring up the wearing of the PJM. Working on the assumption that we will be able to wear the medal legally, I want to see some uniformity; some are wearing it in front of their other medal; some mixed up with other medals; some at the end, while others wear it separately."

Chairman: "Her Majesty's Government *[and the medal office]* will subsequently determine the order but I suspect it will be worn at the end of the row. We will advise as soon as we know."

6c **Mansel Lewis Bridgend Branch**: "Regarding the German Branch, I worked hard when I was National Secretary to help to create the German Branch. I think we should help them to attend the AGM. They cannot apply for lottery grants."

Chairman: "We have made provision for a travel contribution to Delegates meetings *[as you can see in the Record of Decisions of the Delegates meeting of the 9th April 2011 at para 4.1.2]*. The German Branch and others are aware of this

they get all Records of Decisions; the information is on the website; the German Branch Secretary is on the internet and converses with the Association Secretary.”

[Afternote: If Members felt we should also make provision for a travel contribution for distant Branch representatives to attend the AGM it will need a Notice of Motion proposed and seconded at the AGM next year].

- 6d **David Neil President Tyneside Branch:** “Could you clarify if we are going to discuss the potted history of the Association. I did hear you mention it and do you intend to go ahead with it?”

Chairman: “Yes I did mention it, but I said that work has not yet started. I do intend to go ahead with it as discussed at the Delegates meeting in April. I am aware you have sent me a note of advice and I will discuss that with you when the time comes.”

[Afternote: Subsequent to the AGM the National Chairman has invited David Neil to prepare a draft of the Potted History and they will meet in London on 7th November to discuss the first draft].

- 6e **Mike Weller National Standard Bearer:** You mentioned that I am on the website of the NMBVA NEC. Does this mean that I attend meetings?

Chairman: No, only the Executive members attend NEC meetings. Non-Executive members may be invited to attend if the Agenda determines the need.

Item 7 - National Treasurers Report (Dick Richardson):

“Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman please note that the format this year is slightly different and copies of the Auditors Report; the NMBVA Account Outturn for 2010/11; and the proposed budget for 2012/13 have been sent to all Branches and to Members attending this AGM.”

7a. **Outturn Account:** The Treasurer then described every line of the Outturn account and announced the ‘worth’ of the Association fund which is not repeated in these Minutes which are displayed on our public website. Details of the Account will be included in the December Newsletter for the information of all Members. Members who wish to have copies of the account or to ask any questions at any time should contact the Treasurer in the first instance.

Matters arising:

Ron Blain - Durham Branch: Challenged the cost of finger buffets at £12 per person.

Chairman: “We call them finger buffets but really they are substantial and include tea and coffee. We believe the costs are reasonable but of course we monitor costs.”

Cyril Goodhand - Tyneside Branch: “We sponsored Armed Forces Day this year. I see in the budget £150 for doing that but we have not received it?”

Chairman: “Yes, I noticed that you had not claimed it but you can have a cheque after the meeting” *[which the Treasurer then gave].*

Clive Boyles – Bridgend Branch: Clive asked for clarification of the finger buffet costs and the Treasurer explained that the budget had been 40 @ £12 = £480 but the actual outturn was a lesser sum due to fewer Delegates attending the April 2011 meeting. Actual expenditure had been £305.50.

Resolved: The audited account for 2010/11 was accepted without further comment.

7b. **Proposed Budget for 2012/13:** The Treasurer discussed the budget and explained he had increased the budget between 5 and 10% to meet ever rising costs. Meeting accommodation (room costs have increased from £60 to £80); meeting room costs are expected to rise; catering costs for tea, coffee, and finger buffets at Delegates meetings are on the rise; and the addition of a small budget to cover the cost of membership recruiting has been included. The budget anticipates an income in the revenue account for 2012/13 of £16.3k and expenditure of £15.6k.

Matters arising:

Chairman: “Every year we consider and vote on the rate of motor mileage allowance that compensates NEC members travelling to and from meetings. Where possible we share transport. Having discussed with NEC members I propose that it remain at 30 pence per mile for FY 2012/13.”

Ted Pemberton - Nottingham Branch: “The Inland Revenue pay 50p per mile and they say this still not sufficient. You have to cover wear and tear of the vehicle and with the cost of diesel at £1.40 per litre you hardly cover the cost of fuel.”

Chairman: You are quite right Ted, we do not get full recompense, but we want to keep the cost of NEC meetings down. I have been around all the committee and they are quite happy to keep it at 30p per mile for the next FY. If you look at the accounts you will see that members of the committee donate some portion of their claims back to the Association, therefore you could say that we donate 20p per mile back to the Association. Thank you Ted for your words of support and do raise this again next year.

Resolved: Mike Hawkins Leicester Branch: Proposed acceptance of the tabled budget for 2012/13. It was Seconded by **Ivan Glover Nottingham Branch** and approved by a show of hands including the proposal to leave the motor mileage rate at 30p per mile for the FY 2012/13.

Chairman: Closed Item 7 by reminding Members that access to the Association accounts is available at any time and questions about the Association accounts and points of clarification should be raised by any Member with the National Treasurer in the first instance.

Item 8 - Future Meetings & Events: The Chairman said this is a short list of events that we know are going to happen, however things do change, so watch on the web site, and please inform Annie of any events that would be of interest to members so that she can post them on the site.

- a. NEC Meetings: 27th January 2012; 30th March 2012; and 10th August 2012.
- b. Annual Delegates Meeting on 31st March 2012.
- c. Armed Forces Day in Plymouth - 30th June 2012.
- d. Annual Reunion at Royal Court Hotel Coventry 19th to 22nd October 2012.
- e. AGM 2012 - 20th October 2012 starting at 1000hrs.

Item 9 - Wearing of the PJM: Chairman said he had covered this Item in his report and at 6a above. He added that had been delighted with the response from Members to lobby the Commons and the Lords. Much work had been done, and much time spent by many Associations not just ours and the outcome, after the AGM but in time for these Minutes as Addendum, that we are now to be able to wear the medal from Remembrance Sunday onward is news we have been hoping to receive for a very long time. *[Afternote: A response from the office of the Secretary of State for Defence to the Chairman is the definitive approval indication and is on the website]*

Item 10 - NMBVA Memorial:

The Chairman said his major disappointment this year was that we had not progressed improvements to our National Memorial at Alrewas. Members expressed concern over the state of the memorial at last years AGM. He had asked Chas Timms, Chairman of the Surrey branch to take on the task of contacting all Branches and to report back to the NEC and through them to this AGM.

With the input provided by some of our Branches, at the invitation of Chas to them all, he approached the Curator of the National Arboretum who set some guidelines that we would need to follow, including full drawings and sizing's for approval, and then recommended two 'approved' contractors. Chas Timms approached both and their costings were £25k and £30k respectively. This is clearly a cost way above what we can afford.

Recently, a member of Carmarthen Branch proposed another alternative for consideration and the Chairman is studying it at this time and will discuss with the Chairman of Surrey Branch..

The Chairman concluded by saying he is determined that the objective is to table a costed achievable solution at next year's AGM and he will draw together an interested Group to progress this and build upon the work that Chas Timms has done so far. This memorial will be our legacy to the nation long after we have all departed.

Resolved: That the Chairman's declared objective was approved.

Notices of Motion

Item 11 - Motion to hold a Branch Secretary's Symposium:

Proposed By John McAulay and Seconded By Tex Pemberton that a Branch Secretary's Symposium be held in 2012.

Tex Pemberton: "Those of you who where here last year will recall that John, who cannot be with us today, proposed a Branch Secretary Symposium, so that there could be a two way exchange of ideas and we could plan for the future. I personally liked the idea and could see benefits of such a gathering that would provide opportunities for all to consider as a group of involved people what our Association wants to do and also let us look to the future so far as we can. We were tasked by last year's AGM to bring forward costed proposals which are detailed below. It was proposed that the Association would meet the cost of bed and breakfast for two members of each Branch and lunch on day 2 of the gathering":

The Chairman outlined the costs for B&B and lunch on day 2 of the meeting and said the bottom line would be £3360 with a finger buffet lunch or £3560 if a conference lunch. The Chairman went on to explain that these costs could be reduced by: subsuming the NEC

meeting cost planned for November 2011 and the Delegates meeting cost planned for spring 2012. The calculated offset meant that final costs would reduce to: £1300.50 (finger buffet) or £1500 (conference lunch).

David Neil Tyneside Branch: “I have never known a meeting where all branches have attended. It has never been achieved, and I doubt it will ever be achieved, and I think it is a waste of money.”

Grahame Bamford – Leicester Branch: “I should just like to support what David said, you would be lucky to get 50% to 60% of branches, therefore it would be a waste of money.”

Resolved: A show of hands showed the majority against the Motion which was therefore defeated.

Item 12 - Motion to make Contingency provision for dissolution of the Association

Proposed by Tex Pemberton, seconded by Ted Williams (National Secretary) that the NMBVA Constitution be revised to make provision for the dissolution of the Association by adding new paragraph 13 as shown below:

Tex Pemberton: “Every organisation should have within its constitution provision for the dissolution and distribution of assets when it is no longer a viable organisation. I propose that the following paragraph should be added to our Constitution at paragraph 13:

13. In the event that the continuation of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association is considered to be no longer viable, the business will be concluded by the calling of an Extraordinary General Meeting of Members. A majority decision taken will cover: the disposal of financial assets (possibly to some other service charity or worthy cause); the repository for Association records, (possibly to the Central Office of Information); the sale of shop stock; the sale and disposal of Association property; and a final and closing audit. The Minutes of the EGM will close with an order and notice of dissolution to be issued to all members once the necessary executive action to effect dissolution has been taken. Should at any time the Association be granted Charity status then the Charity Commissioners will advise about the disposal of funds.”

Resolved: Carried unanimously.

Item 13 - Motion to amend the Constitution in relation to NMBVA organisation

Proposed by Tex Pemberton and Seconded by Malcolm White: That the NMBVA Constitution of 23 October 2010 be revised at Rule 3 and 3A as shown in the ‘tracked’ version that follows (note: black is how the Constitution is at this time; proposed inserts are in red and proposed deletions are in blue):

Organisation.

3. The organisation, administration and control of the Association within the United Kingdom and Europe shall be by the National Executive Committee (the Committee) who shall be responsible for **managing** all matters of policy,

finance and **managing administration** strictly in accordance with the Constitution and shall:

- A. Consist of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, **Assistant Secretary**, three (3) Committee Members, Regalia Officer and Webmaster. Other symbolic or honorary posts may be created such as **President** or **a National Patron, and** Vice Presidents, **the latter** in recognition of outstanding service to the Association but only with the agreement of the membership at an AGM. Such posts shall not carry any executive powers and shall be **reaffirmed at the AGM for life unless an honorary officer wishes to stand down or an AGM determines a reason to require an honorary officer to stand down.**

Tex Pemberton: "This proposal is a tidying-up exercise. It clarifies that the NEC is responsible for *managing* agreed matters of policy finance and administration, not making policy, which is what the present Constitution suggests. That responsibility to make policy is the remit of the Membership. It formally confirms the existence in our Constitution of our National Patron, which is not currently in the Constitution! It could be that the AGM might prefer to rename the Patron as President. It removes the Assistant Secretary, a post considered by the NEC and particularly the present Secretary to be no longer necessary. It removes President in favour of Patron; we surely do not need both. I would suggest that Vice Presidents, which have been in our Constitution for some time, would be listed on the foot of our stationery and may be invited to represent the Association at National or International events.

Cyril Goodhand Tyneside Branch: Moved a counter proposal to retain the office of Honorary President and a new post of Honorary Vice President be created, their term of office to be decided by the membership, a number of years or life. This proposal was proposed by Terry Clarke, Chairman of Tyneside Branch and seconded by Cyril. Cyril then read out a list of associations who have both a Patron and a President and implied the wish to keep both.

Chairman: "Do I understand that Tyneside Branch want to keep a President whereas my drafted proposal is to remove it?"

Cyril: yes, but not necessary the General.

Chairman: If you want a President *and* a Patron and if that is the majority view of Members we would still have to change the Constitution because the position of a Patron is not in the Constitution. However Vice President *is* in the Constitution so no change would be necessary.

David Neil President Tyneside Branch: "I disagree, the President does not cost the Association one penny. The position is in recognition for ones work and service to the Association and is voted in by the members. Whether it should be for a period of life that is to be decided. The counter proposal by Tyneside Branch, because you have brought in the position of Vice President, that should be brought in. I suggest we leave things as they are."

Chairman:- "David the Position of President is already in the Constitution, Patron is not. The position of Vice President is also in the Constitution but the counter proposal is that we have both a President *and* a Patron. I am not sure if you are for or against the revised motion, so let us vote. The Motion is: we get rid of the position of assistant secretary; we make the change in terms that the NEC committee manages

all matters of policy but does not make policy; we leave President, which is currently in the constitution, as it is; we add Patron to the Constitution and reserve the right to appoint one if that is the wish of the Association; that honorary posts shall be for life unless a post holder wishes to stand down or an AGM determines a reason to require an honorary officer to stand down. This time next year members may wish to nominated Vice Presidents.”

Grahame Bamford Leicester Branch: “There are a number of proposal in this motion therefore can these be broken down for voting?”

Resolved: by majority decisions -

At Rule 3 of the Constitution:

That the National Executive Committee shall be responsible for *managing* all matters of policy, finance and administration [*and not for making policy which is what the present Constitution suggests*]

At Rule 3A of the Constitution:

1. That the NEC post of Assistant Secretary should be removed.
2. That the honorary post of President should remain and be renamed National President and that General Sir Garry Johnson should be invited to consider which post he would prefer.

[Afternote: General Sir Garry had subsequently indicated his preference to be renamed National President and headed paper should be changed accordingly]

3. That the honorary post of National Patron be inserted into the Constitution so that the Association can reserve the right to appoint an Honorary Patron at any time that it wishes to do so.
4. That the Association appoint Vice Presidents [*plural*] in recognition of outstanding service to the Association as per the Constitution.
5. That all those honorary posts shall not carry any executive powers and shall be for life unless an honorary officer wishes to stand down or an AGM determines a reason to require an honorary officer to stand down.

Item 14 - Counter proposal to amend the Constitution: This proposal by Terry Clarke Chairman of Tyneside Branch, seconded by Cyril Goodhand Treasurer of Tyneside Branch was withdrawn subsequent to the debate and decisions on Item 13 above to amend the Constitution.

Item 15 - To finance Standard and Public Liability Insurance: This motion by the Secretary and Chairman of Grantham Branch, that NMBVA Branches contribute a share towards the cost of Standard and liability insurance was withdrawn under Rule 10B of the Constitution because neither the proposer or seconded could be present at the AGM.

Ivan Glover Nottingham Branch: We discussed this at the Delegates Meeting [in April 2011] and on the strength of that we have already paid our share

Item 16 - Motion to revise the “payment date” for Nation Subscriptions

Proposed by Dick Richardson (National Treasurer) seconded By Ted Williams (National Secretary): To bring the payment of National Membership subscriptions in line with the new financial year (1st July to 30th June) subscriptions should be paid by the 30th June annually to cover the following year.

Dick Richardson: “This is an administrative move to make it easier to make Budgets and also to keep check on payments.”

Ted Williams: “It is simply to bring the payment date in line with the financial year.”

Mike Weller National Standard Bearer: “I just want to clarify; I pay my subscriptions in January each year, what is the position?”

Ted Williams: it makes no difference, because you are paying your subscriptions by the 30th June. There are a lot of Standing orders, again this does not make any difference and no action need be taken.

Ted Pemberton Nottingham Branch: I made a proposal a few years ago that we should all pay on the same date. It was agreed that we would pay between the 1st September and the 30th September, now we are being asked to pay by the 30th June, these guys are asking us to change again.

Chairman: “We cannot be dictatorial about this; it makes little difference. The reason for setting down a payment date is that our constitution says, at Rule 5D, that if a member fails to pay annual subscriptions within 90 days of the due date they shall be deemed to have resigned. We need a ‘payment date’ to ‘manage’ that Rule and it makes sense in the interests of simplifying administration for the payment date and financial year to coincide.

Resolved: The revised ‘payment date of 30th June annually, effective in 2012 was agreed.

Item 17 - Motion for a proposed increase in National subscriptions:

Proposed by Ron Blain (Treasurer Durham Branch) and seconded by Maurice Humphrey (Doncaster Branch): That the National Membership Subscription be increased from £4 to £6 per year

Ron Blain: I have discussed this with my branch and the NEC. It is not an awful lot of money, but it will help to keep the Association floating.

Mike Weller North Kent/South East London Branch: In 1994, we were asked to pay £5 each for life membership; we were told we would not to pay any more. Then an annual subscription was brought in. We have not had an increase for many years. I feel that £2 is not an awful amount I support the motion.

David Neil President Tyneside Branch: Reference what Michael just said, £5 was for life membership. In 1997 we held a meeting in Leeds and informed members that we had to have an annual subscription or we would never survive. That was taken forward to the delegates meeting and to the AGM the following year. This was passed unanimously, in 2001 it was increased to £7, part being paid back to

Branches; I am in favour of an increase.

Ted Williams National Secretary: What David said in true, but in 2004 AGM it was agreed the Braches were self-financing, and could set their own subscriptions but £4 had to be paid to National. So what we are discussing now is the National subscription.

Mick Smith Nottingham Branch: We have discussed this, to get members to change standing Orders again and again. It is difficult; therefore we suggest that Branches stand the increase for say the next 2 years. The difficulty here is you can only speak as an individual; you cannot speak for a Branch

Tex Pemberton President Surrey Branch: I speak now as an individual, not as the National Chairman. I have looked at this many times. It came up last year, and we decided the time was not right. We have discussed and approved next year's budget and have seen how tight it is. You have heard the National Treasurers concern that it is probably too tight. However we are managing to live within the budget, just, and we are living in hard economical times. Therefore I don't think we need an increase this year. If we find we cannot live within the budget, I shall be leading a cavalry charge next year for an increase!

Ted Pemberton Nottingham Branch: You have just heard what Tex said. If we increase subscription at this time, when everyone is struggling, we will lose members. I propose we leave it this year.

Brian Roche Postal Members SOUTH Coordinator: Between Mal White [Postal Members NORTH Coordinator] and me we represent almost 700 members. They do not pay £4 to National because they do not have a Branch they pay £7 and the balance is used to cover communication postage.

Resolved: The proposal for an increase in National Subscription was defeated.

At 1325 - Pause for a lunch break to restart at 1400 hrs

Item 18 - Motion to propose Postal Voting:

Proposed by Harry Power (former Tyneside Branch Secretary) Seconded by David Neil (Tyneside Branch President): That the AGM consider postal voting to be more democratic.

David Neil: opened by saying that postal voting was perhaps not a cost-effective option and that card voting at the AGM might be better.

Chairman: said he should put some facts forward first for consideration. Democracy in action is when the majority of members of any organisation take the decisions. However, if the process does not encourage response from the wider membership then the situation can arise where a minimum number of members are influencing policy decision making. It is a fact that at our AGMs a 'few' members take decisions that impact upon the majority. There are for example only 59 registered at today's AGM. Nevertheless, they are able to hear all the arguments for and against a motion and therefore their decision making is informed. Harry Power first raised this issue at the AGM last year and the decision taken was that we should trial postal voting. Some 3,000 + voting slips were sent out to Members in 2010 with the newsletter inviting responses on the subject of postal voting. Only 122 were returned.

Group Captain Mike Hawkins Leicester Branch: “In another organisation in which I am a member they have Branch voting and send the results to the AGM.”

Ted Pemberton Nottingham Branch: “I belong to an organisation with over 2,500 members. We hold an AGM the same as you; we get the same sort of turnout, they have a number on the internet and transmit their vote direct to the Chairman simple and it works.”

Chairman: “We did a random test of how many of our members are on the internet and found there were only 34%. I believe we have more members on the net than our records show today and I am forever encouraging Branches to try to improve their records. Internet voting is an option of course, and we may well be moving towards that for political elections, but at this time will it capture sufficient of our membership or should we be looking at a variety of options? It seems from last year’s experience that members are not going to return a ballot paper; they are unlikely to go to an internet café to cast their vote; and reducing numbers are attending the AGM. As I said earlier, out of 3,000 we get a reply from 122, should we act on the response of just 122?; should we say sorry, but you have to vote in person at an AGM; or do we change our constitution to allow Branch voting?”

Dennis Bowen North Yorkshire Branch: “I don’t care what system others use; I don’t care what Ted’s 2,500 members do. What I care about when I come here is our association the NMBVA, that’s what I care about. Our Constitution states you cannot vote unless you are here. If anyone chooses not to come here, there is no excuses such as “I can’t get there, I can’t afford it etc” They know when they join the Association, if they want to vote they come here. If we have to send post card out to everybody we might as well not have a meeting. I want to talk to people who make proposal; I want to ask questions; I want to see them face to face, not vote on a question on a bit of paper.”

Chairman: “The number at the AGM today is very small, just 59 registered, and we are taking decisions for a membership in excess of 2,000 but at this time we have no other way of voting. May I suggest to you that I believe we should stay as we are, until we can find a more effective method, but I do think we must keep this under review and the NEC should look again at the issue. As we get older mobility issues may dictate the need for another method.”

Resolved: That the rules for voting should remain as set down in Rule 10 of the Constitution.

Item 19 - Motion to propose election of NEC Members for a minimum 3 years.

Proposed by Dick Richardson (National Treasurer) and seconded by Ted Williams (National Secretary): To assist to stabilise the NEC to build on members experience and improve forward planning, NEC members should be elected for a minimum period of 3 years. To achieve continuity it is suggested that a staged election is adapted to that shown below:

Year one	Year two	Year Three
National Chairman	National Secretary	National membership Secretary
National Treasurer	National Vice Chairman	NEC Member
NEC Member	NEC member	

Resolved: After discussion, that election to NEC should remain as set down in Rule 3B of the Constitution, that is to say elected annually.

Item 20 – Motion to propose the Charity for 2011 Reunion:

Proposed By Tex Pemberton and seconded by Mike Hawkins Leicester Branch: that the monies collected from this year's annual reunion dinner raffle be donated to The Not Forgotten Association. [*The raffle takings amounted to £510*].

Tex Pemberton: Reminded everyone of the benefits we have received from the Not Forgotten Association in 2011 with invitations to many events and suggested that we send a donation of £500. During the year we have received invitations to, and members have attended at: a Christmas Party at St James's Palace in December 2010; A Christmas luncheon with entertainment at the Liverpool Marriot hotel in December 2010; a visit to Exbury Gardens in May 2011; seats at Wimbledon Centre Court at the men's quarter finals on 29 June 2011; the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 15th July when a total of 26 of our members attended; a boat trip with lunch on the river Mersey in August; a Founders Day concert with afternoon tea in London in August; a visit to the gardens at Highgrove House, home of HRH The Prince of Wales in October; a weekend in Kent and delivery to and from the Remembrance ceremony at Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday; and finally another visit to St James's Palace Christmas Party in December 2011.

All of these invitations are immediately notified to Branches for further dissemination when received and Members are invited to bid to the Chairman.

Resolved: This donation of £500 was agreed unanimously

Item 21 – Open Forum:

Chairman, "You have all seen the original Standard and tomorrow we shall be laying it up in Coventry Cathedral. There are buses available to take to the Cathedral where parking is at a premium."

Mike Smith Nottingham Branch: "Next year is the Queens Diamond Jubilee. Are we as an Association doing anything? I have thought of this, we will send a message from the Association to the Palace I shall post it on the website."

Chairman: "I have discussed this issue with General Sir Garry and we will be sending a note from the Association as a whole to Her Majesty. On the subsidiary question of a possible medal, I did raise it with William Hague as you will have seen in my letter to him which is on the website. I can advise you also that we have a two-star Army Member who is working vigorously on our behalf to try to achieve some recognition for Veterans at this Diamond Jubilee unlike the Silver and Gold where Veterans were not awarded." [*Afternote: see website for Diamond Jubilee correspondence*]

Ted Pemberton Nottingham Branch: "I should like to thank you Mr. Chairman; I have had more information in the last 12 months about the Association than I ever had before. You have done an excellent job."

Chairman: "Thanks for your kind remarks Ted but do remember I am not a one man band, I do have an excellent NEC team."

Adrian Villanueva Colchester Branch (from Singapore): In your roll of honour you mention Indonesia, who we were at war with. Malcolm White responded that during

the Second World War some of our chaps were prisoners of war held in Indonesia.

Ron Blain ILO: gave details regarding trip to Malaya next year which are contained on our website.

Item 22 - Annual reunion and AGM 2012: The annual reunion will be held at the Royal Court Hotel Coventry from 19 to 22 October 2012 with the AGM on 20th October starting at 1000 hrs.

Item 23 - Election of Officers for 2011/2012: To assume on the rising of the AGM

The Vice Chairman who was returned unopposed took the Chair for the election of Officers.

For National Chairman: There were two candidates:

Lt Col Tex Pemberton OBE - Proposed by Chas Timms MBE Seconded by Don Mott.
David Neil - Proposed by Terry Clarke Seconded by Cyril Goodhand.

Votes:

Tex Pemberton 27; David Neil 18. Tex Pemberton is re-elected as National Chairman.

National Vice Chairman: Malcolm White unopposed
National Secretary: Ted Williams unopposed
National Treasurer: Dick Richardson unopposed
Membership Secretary: Ian Williams unopposed
Association Webmaster: Mrs. Annie Burden unopposed

For NEC Committee members there were four candidates for three positions:

Clive Boyles MSM Proposed by Dennis Jones seconded by David Thomas
Group Captain Mike Hawkins Proposed by George Tullis seconded by Tex Pemberton
Bob Roberts Proposed by Ian Williams seconded by Malcolm White
Brian Roche Proposed by Le Carpentie seconded by J Sandiland

Votes:

Clive Boyles MSM	18
Group Captain Mike Hawkins	28
Bob Roberts	29
Brian Roche	25

Therefore NEC Member elected are Bob Roberts; Group Captain Mike Hawkins and Brian Roche

Non-Executive Officers:

International Liaison Officer	Ron Blain
NEC Resident representative in Kuala Lumpur	Stuart Wakefield
Regalia Officer	Annie Burden
Cenotaph Organising Officer	Don Mott
Postal Coordinator North	Malcolm White
Postal Coordinator South	Brian Roche
Postal Coordinator Overseas	Ron Blain
National Standard Bearer	Mike Weller.

Item 24 - Plan for the Laying up of the original Standard Coventry Cathedral:

The National Secretary gave details of the arrangements for the service.

Item 25 - Reunion Dinner:

The National Secretary announced: Dress Black Tie with miniatures; or lounge suit with miniature or Blazer with Medals. There will be a wine reception in the hotel foyer at 1830hrs, please be seated in the Dining by 1900hrs, ready to welcome our Guest of Honour His Excellency The High Commissioner of Malaysia and our President General Sir Garry Johnston KCB, OBE MC.

Recovery of National Standard and Union Flag

Item 26 - The Chairman Closed the meeting at 1508 hrs, wishing all members an enjoyable evening

Minutes approved by Chairman on 2nd November 2011